United Nations E/2002/15/Add.3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2002

Original: English

Substantive session of 2002
New York, 1-26 July 2002
Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains resolutions and decisions adopted at the recent sessions of the regional commissions in the first half of 2002, during which three of the five regional commissions held their regular sessions: the Economic Commission for Europe held its fifty-seventh session at Geneva from 7 to 10 May; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific held its fifty-eighth session at Bangkok from 16 to 22 May; and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, which meets biennially, held its twenty-ninth session at Brasilia from 6 to 10 May. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which also meets on a biennial basis, held an extraordinary session at Beirut on 11 March. The Economic Commission for Africa, which had been meeting biennially, will henceforth meet on an annual basis; the thirty-fifth session of the Commission/first session of the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Economic Development and Planning, originally scheduled to be held in May, has been postponed until October.

* E/2002/100 and Add.1.

** The submission of this document was delayed owing to the holding of the sessions of the regional commissions in May 2002, with the last adjournment date being 22 May.

02-40825 (E) 250602

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Matters calling for action by the Council	1–2	3
	A. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	1	3
	B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	2	16
II.	Matters brought to the attention of the Council	3–37	16
	A. Economic Commission for Europe	3–21	16
	B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	22–23	19
	C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	24–32	19
	D. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	33–37	20

I. Matters calling for action by the Council

A. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. At its fifty-eighth session, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) approved the following draft resolution for adoption by the Council:

Draft resolution I
Restructuring the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974,[1] 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980,[2] 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987,[3] 47/3 of 10 April 1991,[4] 48/2 of 23 April 1992[5] and 51/3 of 1 May 1995[6] of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also Commission resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997[7] on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, in particular the Commission's decision contained therein to review its conference structure, including its thematic priorities and subsidiary structure, no later than at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission,

Cognizant of its resolution 1998/46 of 31 July 1998 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling the objectives outlined in the relevant millennium development goals, as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] adopted at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, and other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/11 of 2 November 1995 on multilingualism, in particular paragraphs 1, 5 and 6 thereof,

Recognizing that the major economic and social development challenges facing countries and areas of the Asian and Pacific region are interrelated and multidimensional in nature, particularly in an increasingly globalizing world, and that effective approaches to addressing them require multidisciplinary action as well as enhanced regional cooperation and intercountry exchanges of experiences,

Cognizant of the scope of the responsibilities of the Commission, which constitutes the largest region in the world in respect of geographical coverage and contains 62 per cent of the world's population as well as the majority of the world's extreme poor,

Noting the diversity in levels of development of countries and areas of the Asian and Pacific region and the special needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing economies, and economies in transition,

Noting also the Commission's unique role as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region and its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Taking into account the indivisibility in attainment of economic and social development goals,

Commending the initiatives taken by the Executive Secretary of the Commission to revitalize and restructure the programme of work of the Commission and endorsing the focus of the work of the Commission on three key thematic areas, namely, poverty reduction, managing globalization and addressing emerging social issues,

Having considered the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Conference Structure of the Commission, including Its Thematic

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1974, Supplement No. 5* (E/5469-E/CN.11/1153), part III.

[2] Ibid., *1980, Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (E/1980/26 and Corr.1), chap. III.

[3] Ibid., *1987, Supplement No. 14* (E/1987/34), chap. IV.

[4] Ibid., *1991, Supplement No. 14* (E/1991/35), chap. IV.

[5] Ibid., *1992, Supplement No. 11* (E/1992/31), chap. IV.

[6] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 17* (E/1995/37), chap. IV.

[7] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 18* (E/1997/38), chap. IV.

[8] See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

Priorities and Subsidiary Structure, held at Bangkok from 26 to 28 March 2002,[9]

1. *Decides* to approve the revision of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, to conform to the following pattern:

I. The Commission

The Commission shall meet annually, with each session comprising a senior officials' segment followed by a ministerial segment, for up to a maximum of seven working days to discuss and decide on important issues concerning economic and social development in the region, decide on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, examine and approve the programme of work and priorities and take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference.

II. Subsidiary structure

The subsidiary structure of the Commission shall consist of the following three thematic committees and their respective subcommittees:

(a) Committee on Poverty Reduction;

(b) Committee on Managing Globalization;

(c) Committee on Emerging Social Issues, as well as the two existing special bodies.

The three thematic committees shall meet biennially for a maximum duration of three days for each session.

Under the Committee on Poverty Reduction, the following two subcommittees shall be established:

(a) Subcommittee on Poverty Reduction Practices;

(b) Subcommittee on Statistics.

Under the Committee on Managing Globalization, the following four subcommittees shall be established:

(a) Subcommittee on International Trade and Investment;

(b) Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism;

(c) Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development;

(d) Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technology.

Under the Committee on Emerging Social Issues, the following two subcommittees shall be established:

(a) Subcommittee on Socially Vulnerable Groups;

(b) Subcommittee on Health and Development.

The subcommittees shall meet biennially for a maximum duration of three days for each session. Should the Committee on Poverty Reduction so decide, the Subcommittee on Statistics shall meet annually for a maximum duration of three days for each session.

The Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall be retained. Their sessions shall be held biennially for a maximum of two days, one each in alternate years, back to back with the annual sessions of the Commission.

The revised structure is shown in chart form in annex I to the present resolution.

III. Ad hoc ministerial conferences

(a) Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences may be organized on specific issues, but no more than one such conference shall be held per year;

(b) In those years when a ministerial conference is held covering issues normally discussed in a committee/subcommittee, the corresponding committee/subcommittee may not be convened.

IV. Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings

(a) Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings may be convened with the prior approval of the Commission, to carry out a detailed examination of substantive and priority issues, including relevant cross-sectoral issues;

(b) No more than five such intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year, and the total number of days shall not exceed twenty-five.

[9] See E/ESCAP/1235, sect. 111.

V. Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present resolution. The Advisory Committee shall examine ways to enhance and improve its ability to advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, the programme budget, work programme priorities and resource allocation, consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission, and to monitor and evaluate the implementation, outcome and effectiveness of the Commission's programme of work in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee, and shall report back to the Commission regularly.

VI. Existing regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission

The following regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

(a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

(b) Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific;

(c) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery.

VII. General provisions

(a) Functions

The functions of the committees and special bodies are specified in their respective terms of reference in annexes III-VII to the present resolution. The committees shall deal with issues covered under their respective terms of reference in a comprehensive manner following an intersectoral and thematic approach.

(b) Rules of procedure

Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply mutatis mutandis to the committees/ subcommittees and special bodies.

(c) Informal session

An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each Commission session may be organized but shall not be institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session shall be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda shall reach members at least thirty days before the opening of the session, to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the session. Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Commission, under the direction of the Secretary-General and in conformity with the goal of maximizing the impact of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development, to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the subsidiary structure of the Commission and implement its revised programme of work under the framework of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform members and associate members of the Commission of his preliminary assessment of the organizational, staffing and financial implications of the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission within the next six months;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to explore, in close consultation with members and associate members, inter alia, through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, innovative ways, including possible changes to the format of the Commission session, to bring about greater ministerial participation and more active exchanges among representatives at the sessions of the Commission and to submit his recommendations to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session;

5. *Commends* the secretariat of the Commission on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions establishing language arrangements for both the official languages and the

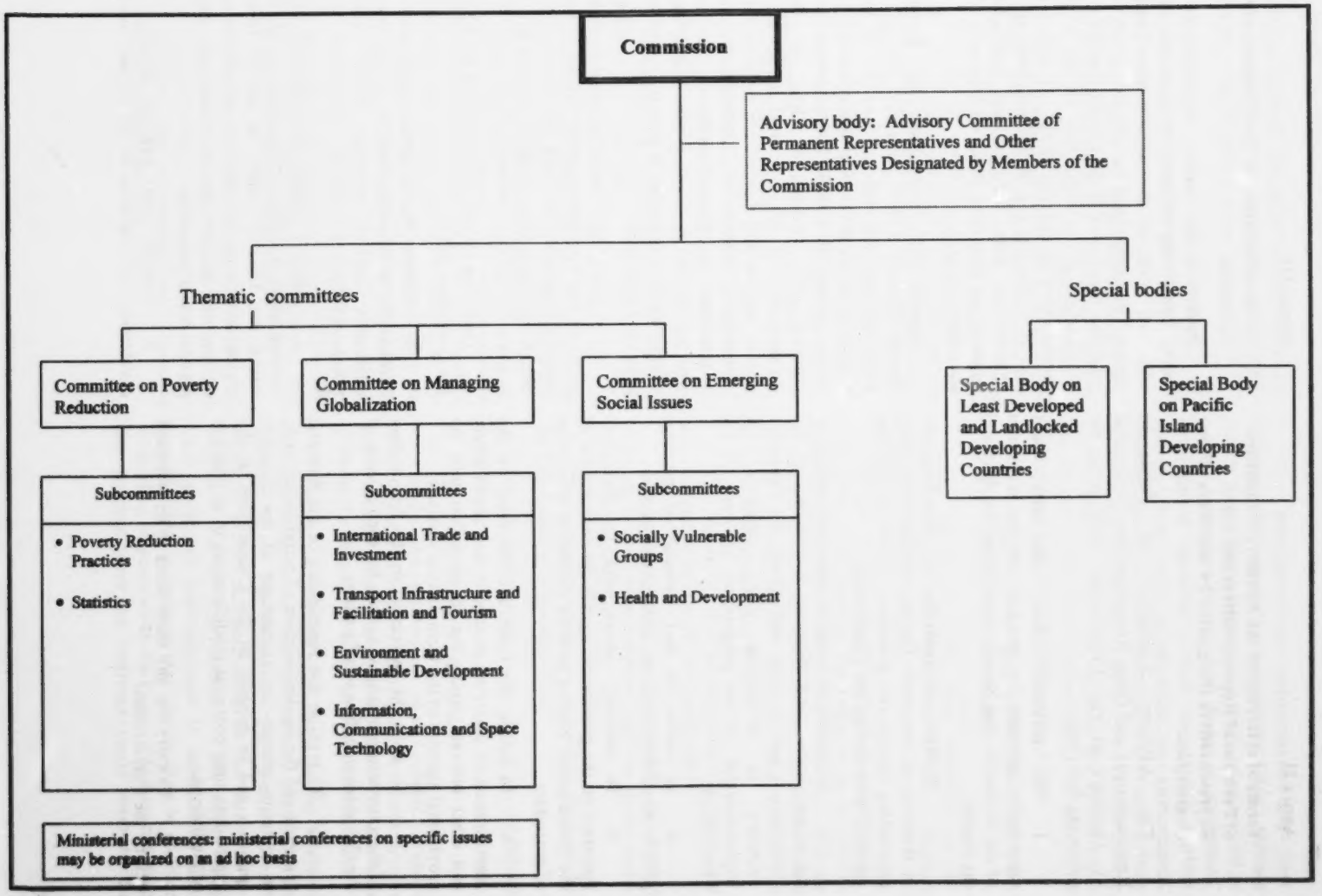
working languages of the Commission and urges the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to monitor closely the strict implementation of Assembly resolution 50/11 of 2 November 1995;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at subsequent sessions on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing in particular on whether the conference structure has served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members, which would serve in particular as the basis for a mid-term review to be conducted during the sixty-first session concerning the functioning of the conference structure;

7. *Endorses* the Commission's decision to review its conference structure, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, taking into account the outcome of the mid-term review of the conference structure, no later than at its sixty-third session.

Annex I

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: subsidiary structure of the Commission


Commission
Advisory body: Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
Thematic committees
Special bodies
Committee on Poverty Reduction
Committee on Managing Globalization
Committee on Emerging Social Issues
Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries
Subcommittees
• Poverty Reduction Practices
• Statistics
Subcommittees
• International Trade and Investment
• Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism
• Environment and Sustainable Development
• Information, Communications and Space Technology
Subcommittees
• Socially Vulnerable Groups
• Health and Development
Ministerial conferences: ministerial conferences on specific issues may be organized on an ad hoc basis

Annex II

Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

1. To maintain close cooperation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

2. To advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, programme budget and priorities, consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission.

3. To receive on a regular basis information on the administrative and financial functioning of the Commission, and to assist and advise the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the programme of work of the Commission.

4. To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission session.

5. To exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for each session of the Commission, bearing in mind chapter II of its rules of procedure.

6. To advise the Executive Secretary on the identification of emerging economic and social issues and other relevant issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas of the Commission sessions.

7. To assist the secretariat in the formulation of the annotated provisional agenda for each session of the Commission before it is finalized.

8. To monitor the functioning of the thematic approach and the implementation of activities under it, in order to provide an assessment of the thematic approach and to suggest to the Commission at the appropriate time potential modifications to or changes of the themes.

9. To carry out any other tasks to be entrusted to it by the Commission.

Annex III

Terms of reference of the Committee on Poverty Reduction

Poverty is the leading development challenge facing developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, with two thirds of the world's poor living in this region. The urgent need for effective action on poverty reduction is reflected in the United Nations millennium development goals, which call for the proportion of people living in extreme poverty to be halved by the year 2015. Poverty is a multidimensional and dynamic phenomenon with complex and interlinked issues requiring an integrated focus on economic, social and environmental areas.

Against this background, the Committee on Poverty Reduction shall serve as a regional forum to assist members and associate members in meeting the objectives of (a) developing strategies and policies to reduce poverty in a rapid and sustained manner and improve the quality of life of the poor, (b) strengthening national statistical infrastructure to collect, analyse and disseminate statistics through the promotion of common methodologies for intercountry comparisons and improvement in the quality of statistics and (c) developing and sharing experiences concerning best practices in poverty reduction in both urban and rural areas.

The goal of the Committee shall be to enable the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to better design and implement pro-poor policies and strategies to attain the millennium development goals.

Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee shall:

1. Review the progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving both the quantitative and the qualitative aspects of the relevant millennium development goals.

2. Analyse global and regional trends and developments, including emerging economic and social issues, that have an impact on poverty levels in the region, with a special focus on recommending policy options that support pro-poor economic growth and prevent social inequities.

3. Review and analyse progress in the development of statistics in the region, assist in the

strengthening of national statistical infrastructure and promote the improvement of the quality of statistics, with emphasis on the following areas:

(a) Improvement and harmonization of methodologies for poverty measurement and related economic and social statistics;

(b) Priority fields of statistics identified by members and associate members, including, but not limited to, national accounts, the informal sector, gender statistics, environment statistics and statistics on information and communication technologies and the knowledge-based economy.

4. Promote the exchange of experiences and the transfer of best practices on poverty reduction, as well as human and institutional capacity-building, with special emphasis on:

(a) Integrating poverty reduction, sustainable development and environmental protection;

(b) Integrating poverty reduction and population dynamics and migration;

(c) Strengthening the economic and social position of the poor through a needs-, development- and rights-based approach;

(d) Enhancing the participation of the poor in decision-making through community-based organizations;

(e) Fostering the development of sustainable and affordable information and communication technologies focused on the needs of the poor.

5. Review and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of the Commission and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the special concerns of the Pacific island countries, landlocked developing countries, least developc countries and economies in transition, the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.

6. Strengthen liaison with governmental and non-governmental, regional and bilateral organizations as well as private sector entities to support poverty reduction policies and strategies that maximize synergies and avoid duplication of effort.

7. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant agencies of the United Nations system to minimize overlap and duplication as well as promote increased liaison with financial institutions, development agencies outside the United Nations system, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries within and outside the Asia and Pacific region so as to maximize the use of available resources and enhance the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's work in addressing critical development challenges in the region.

8. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

9. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to poverty reduction.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall meet biennially and present its report to the Commission to facilitate deliberations on the reduction of poverty.

The Committee shall be assisted in its work by the following two subcommittees:

(a) Subcommittee on Poverty Reduction Practices;

(b) Subcommittee on Statistics.

While the Committee shall consider overall policy aspects of poverty reduction, the subcommittees shall focus on specific sectoral aspects of the mandates given to the Committee under its terms of reference.

The subcommittees shall meet in the intervals between sessions of the Committee, preferably in alternate years. The Committee shall provide overall direction to the subcommittees on the issues to be addressed and the prioritization of their work, which shall guide the subcommittees in determining their agendas. The Committee may decide that, in addition to meeting in years when the Committee does not meet, the Subcommittee on Statistics could meet in the

alternate years to deliberate in particular on matters referred to in paragraph 3 (b) above. The reports of the subcommittees shall be submitted to the Committee at its subsequent session as a basis for deliberations at an intersectoral/thematic level. With regard to the reports of the Subcommittee on Statistics covering issues related to those referred to in paragraph 3 (b), the Committee on Poverty Reduction should review those reports and also make them available to the other committees, as appropriate, taking into account the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Statistics.

Annex IV

Terms of reference of the Committee on Managing Globalization

The process of globalization has profound, and still unfolding, implications for the region's economic and social development. The challenge is how to manage globalization effectively by formulating and implementing effective policies to seize the new opportunities while minimizing inevitable costs. In this context, the Committee on Managing Globalization shall address issues within the focused subprogramme areas of (a) international trade and investment, (b) transport infrastructure and facilitation and tourism, (c) environment and sustainable development and (d) information, communications and space technology.

Under the overall supervision of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Committee shall:

1. Review and analyse emerging economic issues and their implications for the region and recommend policy guidelines that could be considered for adoption by Governments.

2. Review and analyse trends and developments in order to raise understanding of the implications of World Trade Organization agreements, regional trading arrangements and other multilateral trade negotiations and recommend appropriate activities to strengthen capacities of countries to consider accession to the World Trade Organization and for developing countries and economies in transition to participate actively in international trade negotiations.

3. Promote the development of internationally competitive trade by rationalizing and automating documentation, promoting the simplification and harmonization of trade rules and enhancing conformity with standards and certification as well as enhancing management skills.

4. Promote the exchange of experiences and the sharing of best practices in investment promotion and facilitation and strengthen countries in building capacity to formulate and implement policies and strategies in support of enterprise and entrepreneurship development, with a special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises.

5. Promote further development of sustainable tourism by strengthening capacities of human resources and institutions and promoting regional cooperation, especially networking of training institutions.

6. Serve as a catalyst for action in formulating and implementing national, regional and interregional transport initiatives with a particular focus on the Asian Highway, the Trans-Asian Railway and the development of intermodal transport linkages to improve access to domestic and global markets.

7. Promote a comprehensive approach to removing institutional and physical barriers in order to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services and strengthen the development of multimodal transport/logistics services, including transit facilities, to enable active participation in the process of globalization.

8. Review, analyse and document transport trends and policy responses and assist members and associate members in addressing issues that focus on public/private partnerships and promotion of participatory approaches to the integration of economic, social and environmental considerations into transport planning and policy development.

9. Review and assess the state of the environment in the region and highlight the major environmental considerations with a view to encouraging the integration of such concerns into development policies, strategic plans and programmes at the macroeconomic and sectoral levels and facilitating policy dialogues, training and exchange of experiences.

10. Promote human and institutional capacity-building to respond effectively and in an integrated manner to global, regional, national and local environmental plans for participation in developing, acceding to and implementing multilateral

environmental agreements. In this regard, promote the formulation and dissemination of regional perspectives and model legislation and standards as well as economic instruments that would be appropriate in the light of prevailing economic, social and environmental conditions, and support regional and subregional environmental cooperation.

11. Assist in capacity-building, formulation and implementation of strategies and action plans for sustainable use of natural resources, particularly water resources, with a special focus on problems of water quality and access to safe drinking water for the poor.

12. Strengthen national capacities in preventing, mitigating and managing water-related disasters and promote and strengthen collaboration with convention secretariats in combating land degradation, desertification and the negative effects of climate change, and coordinate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on deforestation through the promotion of regional cooperation.

13. Promote capacity-building in sustainable energy development through policy advice, human resources development and exchange of information so as to support national efforts in strategic planning and management and in enhanced utilization of renewable energy and energy efficiency improvement by integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions. Also support subregional cooperation in energy sector development, energy trade and sharing as well as policy reforms.

14. Promote capacity-building for creating an enabling environment for the development of information and communication technologies transfer and application, particularly through regional cooperation and networking of governmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations for the benefit and mainstreaming of developing economies and economies in transition.

15. Promote regional cooperation and effective integration of satellite-based applications of information and communication technologies with other information technologies for informed sustainable economic and social development planning and management, and improved quality of life, particularly integrated remote sensing and satellite communications for remote and rural areas, poverty mapping and distance education.

16. Promote collective self-reliance and South-South cooperation, such as in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and regional resilience.

17. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of the Commission and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the special concerns of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition are adequately addressed.

18. Strengthen the relationship with relevant subregional organizations to promote intra-subregional and inter-subregional cooperation.

19. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences relevant to the work of the Committee, at the national, subregional and regional levels, evaluate progress and provide guidance on the formulation and implementation of regional action programmes.

20. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and supporting countries within and outside the region and relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlap and duplication and strengthening cooperation with those organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's activities.

21. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

22. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to managing globalization.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall meet biennially and present its report to the Commission to facilitate deliberations on managing globalization.

The Committee shall be assisted in its work by the following four subcommittees:

(a) Subcommittee on International Trade and Investment;

(b) Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism;

(c) Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development;

(d) Subcommittee on Information, Communications and Space Technology.

While the Committee shall consider overall policy aspects of managing globalization, the subcommittees shall focus on specific sectoral aspects of the mandates given to the Committee under its terms of reference.

The subcommittees shall meet in the intervals between sessions of the Committee, preferably in alternate years. The Committee shall provide overall direction to the subcommittees on the issues to be addressed and the prioritization of their work, which shall guide the subcommittees in determining their agendas. The reports of the subcommittees shall be submitted to the Committee at its subsequent session as a basis for deliberations at an intersectoral/thematic level.

Annex V

Terms of reference of the Committee on Emerging Social Issues

The Asian and Pacific region faces new and continuing challenges from global and regional development trends that impact deeply on individuals, families and communities. Many in this region face barriers to equal participation and full enjoyment of the right to development because of gender, age, disability, income or other factors. There are other threats to "human security" relating to the rise in human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) infection and human trafficking and other crimes. Furthermore, new regional challenges arise from the rapidly ageing population and international migration, which impact on overall socio-economic development.

The Committee on Emerging Social Issues shall be responsible to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for assisting members and associate members in meeting the theme objective of designing and implementing effective policies and strategies to promote equal opportunities for the productive participation of all social groups and the overall improvement of the quality of life.

Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee shall:

1. Review and analyse major development trends so as to anticipate and identify emerging social development challenges and issues having an impact on the Asian and Pacific region, focusing on socially vulnerable groups, including women, youth, people with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, the ageing population, migrants and people living with HIV/AIDS.

2. Promote social policy development and the mainstreaming of social dimensions in national development programmes.

3. Promote the goals of Education for All, particularly through mainstreaming education in all relevant programmes, especially for socially vulnerable groups.

4. Recommend appropriate national capacity-building strategies at all levels for improving the development and delivery of basic social services such as education, health and nutrition, removing barriers to equal participation and threats to human security, focusing on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in tackling persistent and emerging social issues.

5. Recommend multisectoral strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support, including preventive education and public awareness programmes.

6. Provide guidance to the secretariat on the formulation of medium-term plans and biennial programmes of work to prevent or mitigate critical social problems and promote the right to development of all social groups focused on key areas under item 1 above, through support for normative and operational activities, including:

(a) Implementing technical assistance projects, providing advisory services, conducting training and

research and fostering information development and exchange;

(b) Identifying and disseminating best practices;

(c) Conducting integrated, multisectoral social policy analyses and dialogue.

7. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of the Commission in addressing persistent and emerging social issues and recommend measures to strengthen the programme's impact and relevance, taking into account the comparative advantages of the Commission.

8. Promote regional cooperation among members and associate members of the Commission to strengthen political commitment and advocacy and generate action at all levels to prevent and mitigate any adverse social impacts of development trends. In this regard, attention should be paid to those emerging social issues that could best benefit from close regional cooperation and collaboration.

9. Accelerate national-, subregional- and regional-level follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of relevant global conferences, monitor and evaluate progress and provide guidance on the formulation and implementation of regional action programmes, taking into account pertinent recommendations of the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and other intergovernmental United Nations subsidiary organs.

10. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as increased liaison with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the business sector, and liaise with financial institutions, donors and supporting countries within and outside the Asia and Pacific region so as to maximize resources and the impact of the Commission's work in addressing critical social development challenges in the region.

11. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

12. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to emerging social issues.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall meet biennially and present its report to the Commission to facilitate deliberations on emerging social issues.

The Committee shall be assisted in its work by the following two subcommittees:

(a) Subcommittee on Socially Vulnerable Groups;

(b) Subcommittee on Health and Development.

While the Committee shall consider overall policy aspects of addressing emerging social issues, the subcommittees shall focus on specific sectoral aspects of the mandates given to the Committee under its terms of reference.

The subcommittees shall meet in the intervals between sessions of the Committee, preferably in alternate years. The Committee shall provide overall direction to the subcommittees on the issues to be addressed and the prioritization of their work, which shall guide the subcommittees in determining their agendas. The reports of the subcommittees shall be submitted to the Committee at its subsequent session as a basis for deliberations at an intersectoral/thematic level.

Annex VI

Terms of reference of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries

The special problems and particular situations concerning the economic and social development of the Pacific island developing countries related to their isolation, small size and vulnerability to environmental hazards have been recognized by the international community and within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small

Island Developing States[10] and the implementation of the United Nations millennium development goals. These particular situations in Pacific island developing countries require focused priority attention in order to mainstream these countries into the ongoing regional integration process and associate them with the economic and social dynamism of the region. The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall provide a focused forum for addressing the special issues and problems facing this group of countries in the spirit of regional cooperation.

Under the overall supervision of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Special Body shall:

1. Review and analyse the economic and social progress in the Pacific island developing countries, including constraints on their development.

2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to identify and promote new policy options at the national, subregional and regional levels that allow these countries to maximize the benefits from globalization.

3. Assist in capacity-building of Pacific island developing countries.

4. Foster and strengthen intercountry and inter-subregional cooperation arrangements for exchanges of experience and technical cooperation between and among the Pacific island developing countries and with other countries in the region.

5. Promote liaison, particularly through the Commission's Pacific Operations Centre, with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and supporting countries within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the Pacific island developing countries.

6. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of the Commission and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and gender concerns are adequately addressed.

7. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences relevant to small island developing countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the implementation of the millennium development goals.

8. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

9. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

10. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to Pacific island developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet biennially for two days, back to back with the Commission sessions, in alternate years with the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries.

Annex VII

Terms of reference of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries

The special problems in respect of, and the constraints on, the economic and social development of the least developed and landlocked developing countries have been recognized by the international community, and also within the context of the Brussels Declaration[11] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[12] adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the international development strategy and the implementation of the United Nations millennium development goals. These constraints require focused priority attention in the

[10] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[11] A/CONF.191/12.

[12] A/CONF.191/11.

Asian and Pacific region in order to mainstream the least developed and landlocked developing countries into the ongoing regional integration process and associate them with the economic and social dynamism of the region. The Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries shall provide a focused forum for addressing the special issues and problems facing these groups of countries in the spirit of regional cooperation.

Under the overall supervision of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Special Body shall:

1. Review and analyse the economic and social progress in the least developed and landlocked developing countries and undertake in-depth reviews of economic, social and environmental constraints on the development of least developed and landlocked developing countries.

2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to identify and promote new policy options at the national, subregional and regional levels that allow these countries to maximize the benefits from globalization, with emphasis on the adoption of measures for increased mobilization of domestic and foreign resources, trade and private sector development, public sector reform and provision of advisory services on relevant issues, upon request, to Governments.

3. Support national capacities in least developed and landlocked developing countries, including those related to the formulation of development strategies at the national and sectoral levels.

4. Foster and strengthen intercountry cooperation arrangements for exchanges of experience and technical cooperation between and among the least developed and landlocked countries and with other developing and developed countries in the region.

5. Promote a comprehensive approach to removing institutional and physical barriers in order to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services and strengthen the development of multimodal transport/logistics services, including transit facilities, to enable active participation in the process of globalization.

6. Without duplicating work done elsewhere, review and analyse the special transit trade and transport problems of Asian landlocked developing countries, recommend suitable measures for solving those problems in accordance with international agreements, in particular article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[13] and encourage the Asian landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours to cooperate, inter alia, in order to reduce transport costs in the final costs of delivered goods.

7. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the least developed and landlocked developing countries.

8. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the relevant programme of work of the Commission and make recommendations to the Commission concerning future programmes of work and, in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.

9. Accelerate follow-up to the relevant decisions and recommendations of global conferences related to least developed and landlocked developing countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

10. Promote closer collaboration and joint activities with relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as increased liaison with financial institutions, development agencies outside the United Nations system, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors and supporting countries within and outside the Asia and Pacific region so as to maximize the use of available resources and enhance the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's work in addressing critical

[13] See *The Law of the Sea: Official Texts of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 with Index and Excerpts from the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.V.10).

development challenges faced by least developed and landlocked developing countries.

11. Work closely and coordinate with other subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

12. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to least developed and landlocked developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body shall indicate the outcomes expected for each task, set a time frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet biennially for two days, back to back with the Commission sessions, in alternate years with the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

2. At its twenty-ninth session, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) approved the following draft resolution requiring action by the Council:

Draft resolution I
Place and date of the next session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and rules 1 and 2 of its rules of procedure,

Considering the invitation of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to host the thirtieth session of the Commission,[14]

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for its generous invitation;

2. *Accepts* this invitation with pleasure;

3. *Approves* the holding of the thirtieth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Puerto Rico during the first half of 2004.

[14] See the note by the ECLAC secretariat (LC/G.2177(SES.29/18)).

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

A. Economic Commission for Europe

3. At its fifty-seventh session, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) adopted its annual report covering the period from 12 May 2001 to 10 May 2002. The matters set out below, taken from that report, are brought to the attention of the Council.

Economic aspects of security in Europe

4. In introducing this item, the Executive Secretary recalled that security was not a new topic for ECE, particularly since the Helsinki process had revived the idea in 1975 that economic factors as well as others are part of the "security equation". She pointed out that over the years the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) had increasingly requested ECE to provide inputs into the economic dimension of security and in 1998, at the request of OSCE, ECE had organized a brainstorming seminar on the economic dimension of security. Also in cooperation with OSCE, ECE had organized, in 2001, a colloquium on the economic dimension of conflict prevention.

5. The Executive Secretary pointed out that the United Nations Millennium Declaration and General Assembly resolution 55/162 of 14 December 2000 on the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit had stressed the importance of security and called upon all parts of the United Nations to adjust their programmes to take into account the follow-up to the Millennium Summit relating, in terms of security to, inter alia, the promotion of conflict prevention, and peace-building efforts.

6. A keynote address was delivered by the Secretary-General of OSCE who spoke about the role and experience of OSCE in security and conflict prevention as well as the implications for its mandate of the decisions taken at the Ministerial Council meeting held in Bucharest in December 2001. The Secretary-General underlined that the close cooperation

between OSCE and ECE had been characterized by fruitful achievements. In particular, the cooperation had been effective in the preparation for and follow-up to the annual Economic Forum as well as in specific activities such as the promotion of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (ECE/CEP/43). To strengthen this collaboration, the two secretariats have decided to map out a catalogue of ongoing collaboration and activities on the basis of which future cooperation can be strengthened and extended to involve key partners in the discussions.

7. The Commission expressed its support to the endeavour of all United Nations agencies to ensure a more stable and safe environment in the region and noted the work of the secretariat to identify the appropriate contributions of ECE in this regard. It was felt that, while ECE was not a security agency, it could contribute through its ongoing work in the various sectors. However, it stressed that ECE should avoid duplicating the work of other regional and international organizations and institutions and build on its recognized areas of expertise.

8. It encouraged ECE to continue its work relating to economic aspects of security and its cooperation with OSCE while ensuring the coordination and complementarity of the work between the two organizations. It further expressed its support for the private sector's involvement as an important component of future work.

9. The chairpersons of the Commission's Principal Subsidiary Bodies (PSBs) were invited to look closely at the work programmes of PSBs in the context of security and safety. This would provide a basis for a cross-sectoral examination of the challenges and potential threats to security that pertained to ECE work. The Executive Secretary was encouraged to continue to monitor this aspect of the activities of the Commission.

Self-assessment of the ECE secretariat

10. In introducing the conference room paper that she had tabled on the above, the Executive Secretary recalled that the Secretary-General had launched an initiative to continue the process of strengthening the Organization in the light of the principles and priorities of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Part of this initiative involved a review of the Secretariat's programme of work and each United Nations department had been asked, as a first step, to prepare self-assessments. To involve ECE member States as early as possible in the process, the Executive Secretary had presented the self-assessment document for information and comment.

11. In presenting her proposals, she stressed the importance of avoiding duplication with other organizations and of building new strengths on existing ones. In particular, she proposed that the activities of ECE include the social dimension of growth and increase policy dialogue and support to policy-making in the Commission. She was fully conscious of the fact that the overriding principle guiding the exercise must be that of focus. She emphasized that ECE could not and should not become too dispersed and that new activities must be taken on in a focused way. She also stressed the need for ECE to be able to respond efficiently to global processes, both in the preparatory phase and in implementation, bearing in mind what others were doing and what the niche of ECE should be. The Executive Secretary underlined that the Commission was not expected to take a formal decision on the proposed "reform package" at the current meeting, but to have the first in a series of many discussions on strengthening the organization. She looked forward to hearing the Commission's preliminary reactions to the proposals contained in the paper.

12. The Commission welcomed the opportunity to discuss the proposals set out in the conference room paper. Delegations' initial comments on them were very diverse. The Commission believed that further discussion was needed on important matters such as: introducing more policy dialogue, the social dimension and security issues into the Commission's work programme, reforming the ECE intergovernmental structure, and strengthening the role of the annual session and the Bureau, as well as the proposed orientation of technical assistance and operational activities.

13. Following the remarks of member States, the Executive Secretary expressed her appreciation for the Commission's support for strengthening ECE in the wider context of United Nations reform and reiterated her wish for the active involvement of the Commission in the process, requesting written comments on the paper to be submitted to facilitate future discussions.

She concluded by emphasizing that the Commission not only should build on old achievements, but must be able to respond to new challenges while exploiting its proved advantages and increasing its cooperation with others. In this connection, member States should be involved in priority-setting and establishing the programme of work for the budget so that the ECE work programme corresponded to the interests of its member States.

Progress report on ECE technical assistance

14. The Executive Secretary introduced this item by outlining the intent and directions of ECE technical assistance and operational activities, stating her agreement with the points presented in the report of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work for strengthening the Commission's technical activities and the need to develop a mechanism to render these activities more transparent, targeted and focused on the policy work of ECE implementation of norms and standards for the benefit of countries in transition.

15. The Commission underlined the importance it accorded to ECE work on technical assistance and operational activities. It was considered that further improvements were necessary to make them more effective. These activities needed to be better targeted and more coordinated with a view to producing tangible results, at the national and subregional levels, and thus having a real impact on the development of recipient countries. It was also felt that they needed to be more transparent and that more information should be provided to clarify the understanding of the procedures involved in these activities from conception through funding and implementation and on to follow-up and evaluation.

16. The Executive Secretary thanked the Commission for its support for ECE activities under this agenda item. She concluded that strengthened coordination on technical activities should be based on both internal and external coordination with the relevant organization working in the field of technical assistance. She also strongly supported the conclusions of the Group of Experts, especially concerning the need for creating more transparency and providing regular updated information on them. She assured the Commission that the secretariat would develop its expertise to deliver on project assessment in the future.

Preparation for and follow-up to world conferences

17. In her opening remarks, the Executive Secretary underlined the importance of ECE contributions to the preparations and follow-up to global conferences and events. The conference room paper that she had tabled summarized those contributions in respect of four global events, namely, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, the World Summit on the Information Society, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

18. As outlined in the paper, the role of the regional commissions in contributing to both the preparation of, and follow-up to, United Nations global events has been increasingly recognized, with the awareness that inputs from the regions stimulate, and even shape, the debate at the global level prior to global events. Moreover, the follow-up to such events can be more effective at the regional level.

19. The Executive Secretary reiterated the need for a strengthened priority-setting mechanism of the Commission. She also noted that this might also require an adjustment to the Commission's mandate, as it would permit ECE to better respond to global events such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

Other business

20. A briefing was provided by the representative of Spain on Euro-Mediterranean activities, known as the Barcelona process — the only forum where Arab countries and Israel participated together. Support was expressed for the ECE Mediterranean projects and cooperation with the MEDA programme was encouraged. ECE could draw upon the work of the Barcelona process in relation to its activities in the Mediterranean.

21. The Senior Adviser on Multidisciplinary Issues of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat reported on the progress of three interregional technical cooperation projects in the Mediterranean: (a) capacity-building in trade facilitation and electronic business led by ECE; (b) sustainable management and protection of internationally shared groundwaters led by ESCWA; and (c) financing of renewable energy and energy conservation projects led by ECA. Information was

provided on the issues underlying each project as well as their objectives and the modalities for their implementation.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

22. At its fifty-eighth session, ESCAP adopted the resolution summarized below, which is brought to the attention of the Council.

Resolution 58/4. Promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asian and Pacific region in the twenty-first century

23. In the resolution, the Commission welcomed with appreciation the Organization of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Conclude the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons to be hosted by the Government of Japan and the Shiga Prefecture Government at Otsu city, Shiga, Japan, from 25 to 28 October 2002. Given that the decade was coming to an end, the Commission proclaimed its extension for another decade, 2003-2012, with a view to giving further impetus to the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[15] and the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons in the ESCAP region beyond 2002.

C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

24. At its twenty-ninth session, ECLAC adopted the following resolution which, being of interest to the Council, is brought to its attention.

Resolution 595 (XXIX). Brasilia resolution on globalization and development

25. At its twenty-ninth session held in Brasilia from 6 to 10 May 2002, ECLAC considered the report on globalization and development (LC/G.2157(SES.29/3)), which it had requested from the secretariat at its twenty-eighth session. The report analysed the interrelationship between the development agendas of the countries of the region and the policies associated with globalization processes in the economic spheres, particularly those relating to trade, financing and capital flows as well as those in the social and environmental spheres. The report provided concrete public policy proposals for member States.

26. In the Brasilia resolution on globalization and development, the Commission welcomed the report, in particular the concepts it had developed, the information it contained and the proposals it set forth at the national, regional and international levels. In line with the report, the Commission recognized that globalization, as a multifaceted process, had brought about a globalization of values or the gradual spread of shared ethical values. This was manifested most clearly in the respect for human rights, including civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights, which were emphasized, in particular, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

27. The Commission noted the growing interdependence among countries in a number of areas such as international finance and the environment, and that this stood in sharp contrast to the insufficient development of a suitable global institutional framework for addressing these issues. It also noted that the expansion of trade had not resulted in rapid worldwide economic growth and that the high degree of capital mobility had been accompanied by volatility and contagion. Knowledge and technological innovation had become further concentrated in the industrialized countries. Income disparities between and within countries continued owing to the persistence of inequalities in the world order in terms of macroeconomics and finance, production and technology, as well as to restrictions on movement of labour. The current phase of globalization had brought about a range of opportunities, some of which had been at least partially utilized by developing countries. Nonetheless, it also entailed risks that exacerbated certain long-standing problems in the region while also generating new ones.

28. The tradition and vitality of subregional integration schemes and the potential for deepening them within a framework of open regionalism, along with the wealth of regional institutions present in Latin America and the Caribbean, were stressed. Moreover, the proved capacity of the countries of the region to expand trade both within and beyond the region and to attract a large volume of resources, especially foreign

[15] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).

direct investment (FDI), was considered to be positive. Progress had been attained by many countries in the area of macroeconomic management, especially with respect to the control of public finances and inflation. Strides had been made towards a more effective incorporation of the sustainable development agenda, and there was expansion, in many cases, of public expenditure on education, which had enabled the countries in the region to increase the coverage of basic and secondary education and to launch initiatives to give their populations access to computerized information networks and audio-visual media. Efforts were being made to make the labour market more adaptable by introducing new worker training arrangements and by developing unemployment insurance schemes. The private sector was playing a positive role in the modernization of the various infrastructure sectors and in interacting with the public sector to develop innovative approaches in the area of social security.

29. There were, however, obstacles that still impeded the process of changing production patterns with social equity and environmental sustainability in the region. Economic growth had been insufficient and volatile, and the increase in productivity had not narrowed the gap between the developed and developing worlds. The linkages of export activities and FDI with other economic activities remained insufficient. Moreover, institutions for the promotion of sustainable development had few instruments and very limited resources at their disposal. The inadequacy of quality jobs continued to impede the reduction of unemployment, inter alia, in the informal sector. The educational divide between developed and developing countries persisted in terms of coverage (secondary and higher education) as well as quality. Increased demands were being made for social security systems to cover traditional risks, namely, health care, old age and illness, as well as new ones related to the growing instability of employment and income.

30. The Commission endorsed the positive agenda proposed by the secretariat for meeting the challenges posed by globalization, particularly the importance of national strategies for consolidating democracy; and the region's possible contribution to the construction of a global institutional structure that could mitigate external vulnerability and give the countries of the region greater manoeuvrability in designing and implementing national policies, as well as the view that regional and subregional bodies were forums for cooperation. The Commission requested the ECLAC secretariat to arrange for the wide distribution of the report and encouraged its discussion in political, social, academic and business circles, as well as by its civil society organizations in the region with a view to promoting dialogue concerning the chief components of the proposed agenda. The Commission also encouraged the review and discussion of the report by international organizations dealing with the various dimensions of economic development so as to foster, in particular, an exchange of ideas regarding the proposals for correcting asymmetries and gaps in the international agenda.

31. The Commission urged the Executive Secretary to undertake a more in-depth analysis of the following issues: (a) education, science and technology, highlighting the development of national and regional innovation systems that united the efforts of the public and private sectors; (b) social protection, with the aim of achieving complementarity between public and private arrangements in order to broaden coverage and achieve greater solidarity; (c) counter-cyclical macroeconomic management, adding national, subregional and regional measures to complement the changes required at the international level; and (d) production linkages, defining policies for developing and deepening them and for forming production clusters.

32. The Commission also called upon the secretariat to continue its examination of the development strategies of the member countries of the region within the context of the globalization process, based on the need for an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental issues, and to identify related policies and measures at the national, regional and international levels.

D. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

33. The fourth special session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), held on 11 March 2002, adopted only one resolution, which is brought to the attention of the Council.

Resolution 238 (S-IV). Revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and revised programme of work and priorities for the biennium 2002-2003

34. In this resolution, the revised medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and the revised programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003 were adopted unanimously.

35. ESCWA had at the end of last year embarked on revising the medium-term plan and the current programme of work to take into account General Assembly resolution 55/2 containing the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the report of the Secretary-General on a road map towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration (A/56/326) and the recommendation of the twenty-first session of the Commission calling for a more focused work programme oriented towards assisting in regional integration.

36. The resolution called upon the ESCWA secretariat to take all necessary measures required to increase the effectiveness of its activities.

37. In this respect, it may be useful to note that the revised medium-term plan is based on the overriding goal of regional integration with four thematic priorities: managing water resources and energy; responding to globalization; enhancing integrated social policies; and harnessing technological capabilities (bridging the gap known as the digital divide) to be implemented through six subprogrammes. These are: integrated policies for the management of regional resources for sustainable development; integrated social policies; economic analysis and forecasting for regional development; regional integration and responding to globalization; information and communication technology for regional integration; and comparable statistics for improved planning and decision-making.